D. Facilitate easy payment of telephone bills to meet the requirement of all segments of society.

Line online payment, Electronic Clearance Scheme (ECS), Automatic Cheque Deposit Machines, credit and debit card payment scheme.

Appointment on compassionate grounds in BSNL and MTNL

2108. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointment on compassionate grounds of the wards of deceased officers/employees has been stopped in MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of staff in MTNL and BSNL;

(d) whether vacancies caused due to the death or retirements of employees have not been filled up since a long time; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government for making appointments on compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) While appointments on compassionate grounds are continuing in BSNL, the Board of Directors of MTNL have imposed a ban on compassionate ground appointments and other types of recruitment except appointments is key areas. It is pertinent to mention here that a Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced in MTNL for rightsizing the organization.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Creation and filing up of the posts are continuous administrative processes. While vacancies caused due to the death or retirement of employees are filled up including by way of compassionate appointment (though not on 1:1 basis) in BSNL, MTNL is engaged in rightsizing the organization by way of introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.